

up the Tribunal's work is not in dispute—in my meetings with Tribunal officials, no one suggested that the Tribunal should not aim to finish its work by 2008. This consensus, however, does not change the fact that much important still remains to be done, and the tribunals will need continued support to complete it.

Some have also suggested that the existence of tribunals has given the international community a rationale for neglecting developing of indigenous justice systems in countries subject to the tribunals. And I agree that this is a pitfall that must be avoided, and I strongly support efforts to strengthen the capacity and independence of the judiciary in countries that have suffered from wide-scale human rights violations. Last week, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Pierre Prosper told the House International Relations Committee that "the United States stands prepared to assist the states in rebuilding their shattered judicial systems to make them capable of dispensing truth-based justice and establishing systematic respect for the rule of law." I certainly hope he is right, because this is an indispensable element in the global effort to bring some stability to the heart of Africa. But I am not yet convinced that our actions will match this rhetoric, and I am specifically concerned that no funding is being requested in 2003 for the Great Lakes Justice Initiative. And while I am encouraged by the Rwandan Government's efforts to address the massive backlog of genocide-related cases through a system of community courts known as *gacaca* and believe that the international community should help the government in Kigali to ensure the integrity and efficacy of this effort, I also respect the Rwandan's decision not to attempt to try those most responsible for the genocide—known as Category One suspects—in these untested courts in which judges have very little training and where only limited safeguards exist for victims and for the accused.

Madam President, it is important to acknowledge that much of the criticism that has been leveled at the tribunal is fair, and it reflects real, and in some cases ongoing problems with the ICTR. Too often in the past, allegations of waste and mismanagement proved to be accurate, and the tribunal must exercise constant vigilance to fight corruption and abuse. Decisive steps must be taken to address the issue of fee-splitting between those on trial and defense counsel. I was pleased to learn about some of the efforts currently underway during my visit. I have raised these issues with the Chief Prosecutor, I have raised them with U.N. officials in New York, I raised them in Arusha, and I will continue to raise them. And overall, the tribunal simply has to pick up the pace of its work. I believe that this, too, is being addressed. During my visit there were three cases being heard simulta-

neously. And as I have mentioned, providing additional judges to the ICTR will help to address this problem.

Madam President, because this tribunal is so important, the international community must keep working to get it right. The ICTR still has a great deal of work to do, and the international community, including the United States, must ensure that they are operating with all the necessary support, and operating under clear demands for accountability and integrity. These two initiatives—supporting the court and demanding an end to corruption and waste—are not contradictory, they are complementary. I urge my colleagues and the administration to pursue both with equal vigor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO PFC MATTHEW COMMONS

Mr. ENSIGN. Madam President, I rise to speak of a brave young nevedan, PFC Matthew Commons, who was killed in combat in Afghanistan. I am humbled and grateful that he was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

For he is one of the noble soldiers of whom Thomas Jefferson spoke when he warned that "the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

In doing his duty for God and country, he gave up all so that we could grow and thrive and learn and love in the greatest Nation in the world.

He is our fallen hero. A grateful Nation should never forget, he had family, friends, and plans for the future. He was just 21 years of age, old enough to dedicate his life to protecting our country, but too young to have a family of his own.

His mother told me that one of the hardest burdens she now has to bear is the knowledge she will never get to hold Matthew's children.

Matthew was an all-American kid, growing up in Boulder City. He ran track and played soccer at Boulder City High. He was elected secretary of his senior class.

On September 11, al-Qaida terrorists attacked the United States.

On March 4, Matthew Commons sought to make sure that would never happen again.

He died to make sure that no American was left behind at the mercy of al-Qaida. His mission was a success. And his fellow soldiers endured heavy fire so that he, too, ultimately would come home from the front.

In fighting for our Nation, he ensured that we would be free.

In dying, he left in his wake the grief of those who knew and loved him, including his mother, Patricia Marek and his father, Greg Commons.

God bless you, Matthew Commons.

And God bless America.

Would the senior Senator from Nevada like to make some comments?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I certainly applaud my colleague from Nevada for making his heart-felt statement. I am not much for calling people when there is a tragedy. I tend to write letters. It is difficult for me to speak to people upon the loss of a loved one because it brings back memories of those loved ones of mine I have lost. So I normally just write a letter.

But I thought it was appropriate yesterday, when I learned about the death of Matthew, that I call and speak to the parents; and I did that. Certainly, it was not a pleasant call in the sense that you call and talk to grieving parents, but it was a call I will never forget.

His mother asked me if I would write her a letter. I said I would be happy to. She said: The reason I want the letter is because I will have that to refer to. I will not have my son anymore. And she broke down and cried a little bit about that.

As I just indicated, I talked to his mom, Patricia, who lives in Las Vegas. I also talked to his dad, Gregory. Gregory, as do most fathers, put up a very brave front during the first part of our conversation. Like all dads, toward the end of it, his emotions got the best of him. He shed a few tears, I know. I could tell by his voice that he was crying on the other end of the line.

I talked to him about Matthew's brothers. Matthew had three brothers. Matthew was the oldest. And his dad said: Matthew always looked out for his brothers, that if anyone tried, in any way, to get the better of his little brothers, he was always standing there making sure that they did not.

And I said to Mr. Commons: You have to explain to your sons that they have a great example to live up to because their brother gave his life for our country.

So I was saddened to see that one of those who died was from Bolder City, NV. As indicated in the Washington paper today, in their comments about his death, Matthew was the youngest of those who were killed, but the parents and the wives of the other men who were killed are grieving just as Matthew's parents, no matter where they live in this great country of ours.

But I do say that as a result of the courageous act of Matthew, who was actually going to the aid of one of his comrades, we are going to win the war on terrorism—because there are people all over America today like Matthew Commons willing to give their lives for their country.

GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in introducing the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2002. I am particularly grateful to Senators SNOWE, JEFFORDS, FRIST and GREGG for their